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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/421,416  
Applicants : Hinrich SCHUETZE et al.  
Filed : October 19, 1999  
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Docket No. : D/99198 / 311297  
Customer No. : 31011

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) and information listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. One legible copy of each is attached to the PTO-1449 Form. It is respectfully submitted that the references and information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of the above application (which is not a CPA), OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, Notice of Allowance, or other action that closes prosecution. Please debit Xerox Corporation Deposit Account 24-0037 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). (A copy of this letter is attached.)

3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance; AND

a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1); OR

b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge, after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2).

4. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before the payment of the Issue Fee. Please debit Xerox Corporation Deposit Account 24-0037 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). (A copy of this letter is attached.) AND

a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1); OR

b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge, after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2).

5. Per 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3), a concise explanation of the relevance of each of any submitted item that was not in the English language is either enclosed herewith, or incorporated in the application specification.

6. A copy of an English language version of an above-referenced counterpart foreign application search report is attached.

7. Copies of some or all of the subject references were cited by, or submitted to the Office in related parent Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, which is relied upon under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these references are not attached (except for copies of cited pending applications). 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d).

8. A copy of each copending application recited in the parent

application of paragraph 7 above, and/or a copy of other related copending applications, is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 17, 2000

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